

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system, comprising:  
a controlled device for managing an operation panel having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations;

5 a controller for accepting an operation for said operation panel supplied by said controlled device; and an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating said operation panel and a second operation unit for specifying a specific operation, wherein said controller transmits a first control signal indicating that any of said display element has been operated on the basis of an operation for said first operation unit to said controlled device and transmits a second control signal for specifying any of said specific operations on the basis of an operation for said second operation unit to said controlled device.

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20 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said operation panel has a hierarchical data structure and said display element has at least one of image data and text data.

25 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said controller moves a cursor displayed on said display panel on the basis of the operation for said first

operation unit.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said controller accepts the operation for said second operation unit even if said display panel is not displayed.

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10. A system according to claim 1, wherein said controlled device receives one of said first control signal and said second control signal, determines whether contents of said operation panel should be changed, and transmits data for changing the contents of said operation panel to said controller if the contents should be changed.

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15. A communication apparatus, comprising:  
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operation panel managing means for managing an operation panel having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations and for supplying said operation panel to a controller for accepting an operation for said operation panel; receiving means for receiving a first control signal indicating that said display element has been operated and a second control signal for specifying any of specific operations from said controller; and control means for controlling an operation corresponding to said display element to be executed on

the basis of said first control signal and controlling  
said specific operation to be executed on the basis of  
said second control signal.

5           7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein  
said operation panel has a hierarchical data structure  
and said display element has at least one of image data  
and text data.

10          8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein  
after receiving either said first control signal or  
said second control signal it is determined whether  
contents of said operation panel should be changed and  
data for changing the contents of said operation panel  
15          is transmitted to said controller if the contents  
should be changed.

20          9. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein  
said data communication apparatus is a video recorder  
or a tuner.

25          10. A communication method, comprising the steps  
of:

supplying an operation panel having a plurality of  
display elements corresponding to predetermined  
operations to a controller for accepting an operation  
for said operation panel; and

receiving a first control signal indicating that any of said display elements has been operated or a second control signal for specifying any of specific operations.

5       wherein a control is made so that an operation corresponding to said display element is executed if said first control signal is received and said specific operation is executed if said second control signal is received.

10                   11. A communication apparatus, comprising:  
                  receiving means for receiving a signal from an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating an operation panel having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations supplied from a controlled device and a second operation unit for specifying specific operations; and

15                   transmitting means for transmitting a first control signal indicating that any of said display elements has been operated on the basis of an operation for said first operation unit to said controlled device and for transmitting a second control signal for specifying any of said specific operations on the basis of an operation for said second operation unit to said controlled device.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said operation panel has a hierarchical data structure and said display element has at least one of image data and text data.

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13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a cursor displayed on said display panel is moved on the basis of the operation for said first operation unit.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the operation for said second operation unit is accepted even if said display panel is not displayed.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said data communication apparatus is a digital television set.

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16. A communication apparatus, comprising:  
first operation means for operating an operation panel having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations supplied from a controlled device to a controller;

second operation means for specifying any of specific operations; and

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transmitting means for transmitting a signal indicating that said first operation means has been operated and a signal indicating that said second

operating means has been operated to said controller.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein  
said first operation unit has a plurality of operation  
keys for selecting display elements of said operation  
panel and said second operation unit has a plurality of  
operation keys for specifying said specific operations.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
10 said data communication apparatus is a remote  
controller.

A simple line drawing of a hand, palm facing left, used as a placeholder for a signature.